

# Comment

## The News

### Fundraising drive proved a resounding success

#### DISNEY APPEAL

It's a weekend that has proved that old-fashioned compassion and community spirit can be harnessed by the most modern of technology.

On Saturday *The News* front page reported the story of Clare Baillie, a mum of four who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Originally it was colon cancer, but now the disease has spread to other parts of her body and after being told it was inoperable, Clare has decided not to undergo any more courses of chemotherapy.

Rather than prolong her life but be in considerable pain – and spend a lot of time in hospital – Clare said she would rather be around her family as much as possible.

To mark this, her friends launched a campaign to raise enough money to send her and the family to Disney World, a cause that we wholeheartedly backed.

The result has been stunning. As Clare says, speaking this weekend after being discharged from hospital, it's hard to put into words how it makes her feel. As well as many strangers across the area helping where they can, celebrities have joined in.

Vinnie Jones has pledged \$5,000, Portsmouth-born Jon Stretton-Knowles will chip in £1,000, and so on. And Football for Cancer, the ever-growing local charity, has also promised to contribute.

It's a wonderful community effort, and a testament to what can be achieved with organisation and drive.

And while the family say that there is still some fundraising to go – to cope with the cost of travel insurance and suchlike – they are delighted that the trip has in effect been secured by this weekend's efforts.

Some people may recognise Clare because she took up the cause of Lucy Jenkins, a friend of hers who also had terminal cancer, last year, looking to send her and her family to Disney World. Sadly Lucy died before the holiday could happen, but that takes nothing away from Clare's selflessness.

And while fundraising nowadays is based more on the hashtag and less on the tin-rattle, it proves generosity, consideration and kindness are eternal.

# This is a global crisis and we need to do our bit to help



## EMMA JUDD

SHE'S NEVER LOST FOR WORDS

A friend of mine has spent a fair amount of time working in north Africa and meeting the very people who are now making international headlines and holding up traffic on the M20.

He's even written a book about it and was asked to go on Radio 4 and the BBC World Service in the dead of night, BST, to talk about the migrant crisis.

He had some pretty good nuggets of information to share with insomniac listeners, the main one being that the 5,000 people literally killing themselves to get into Kent didn't wake up one morning, kiss their wives and decide to head to the UK just for a cheap thrill and the chance to appear on *How To Get A Council House*.

Like any good journalist my friend Rory, author of *The Toss of A Coin: Voices From A Modern Crisis*, has a fair few facts up his sleeve.

Those 5,000 migrants at Calais represent one in 27 of those who dived with death to take the Mediterranean route into Europe.

If they were to go through the regular immigration channels, of course not all

of them would be allowed entry — but even if they did they would be less than 0.1 per cent of the UK's population.

And, finally, the top six countries they are from are Syria, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Iraq and the Republic of the Sudan.

They are fleeing a torturous, enslaving persecution from a regime we have been fighting, on and off, for the past decade (though really for far longer).

They are the people dying to escape. Literally.

And now they're in Calais, desperate to find a place in which to survive.

They are different. They are Johnny Foreigner. But they are people with names and histories.

It's not so much a migrant crisis we have on our doorstep — it's a human tragedy.

The answer might not be to let them in and give them a council house and benefits.

But it sure as hell isn't any kind of answer to let them kill themselves night after night.

This is a global crisis, not a French one, and we need to help.



HUMAN TRAGEDY Migrants at Calais

## How exactly does killing this lion help to preserve wildlife?

On the subject of behaving nicely to people, there's always an exception that proves the rule.

Walter Palmer, the lion-killing dentist from Minnesota, is that exception.

I'm not going to condone the views of people who have called for him to be shot inaccurately with an arrow, left to die for 40 hours and then beheaded — mainly because who in their right mind

would want his stuffed head with its ridiculously bright teeth grinning down at them?

Pro-hunting groups say the licences for safari slaughter bring money into the economy and directly help preserve wildlife in properly-established enclosures.

Yeah, sure. Luring an animal out of its safe enclosure and killing it really helps preserve the animal kingdom.



**They are fleeing a torturous, enslaving persecution**

## What will commissioner do about 'buy a bobby' idea?

As a journalist I'm not supposed to support having policemen in your pocket and buying members of Her Majesty's Constabulary has never been more frowned upon.

But residents living in villages near Basingstoke are trying to buy their own bobby — PC Andrew Reid.

He's been beat officer for Upton Grey and The Candovers for more than a decade,

but he's got to be relocated due to 'efficiency savings'.

Villagers have offered to pay £60,000 a year out of their own pocket to keep him, and the parish council also wants to sponsor a 4x4 police car.

Why? Does he not sleep? Is PC Reid a superhero in disguise?

It'll be interesting to see what Hampshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's decision will be.

You can read and react to Emma's previous columns by logging on to [portsmouth.co.uk/emmajudd](http://portsmouth.co.uk/emmajudd)

CHIPPER



Happy Birthday, Chipsters

Jake Matthews, 9; Ruby Whitmore, 10; Max Rogers, 9; Sophia Griffiths, 9; Ben Stevens, 10

See the Chipper Club page every Tuesday and log on to [portsmouth.co.uk/chipper](http://portsmouth.co.uk/chipper)